

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02346 021459Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT: PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 261641; B) BUCHAREST 6293; C) STATE 259708;

D) SOFIA 1803; E) SOFIA 712; F) SOFIA 1638

1. WE NOTE FROM PARA 4 REF A THAT RICHMOND-ARNOLD TEAM EXPECTED TO GO FROM BUDAPEST TO BUCHAREST ON OR ABOUT NOV 22 FOR PROGRAM TALKS, AND FROM REF B THAT ROMANIANS ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE THEM AT THAT TIME AND HAVE SUGGESTED JANUARY INSTEAD.

2. WE WERE GREATLY PUZZLED BY STATEMENT REPORTED PARA 1 REF A THAT DAMYANOV HAD INDICATED IN WASHINGTON THAT "THE GOB WOULD NEED THREE MONTHS FROM RECEIPT OF OUR DRAFT TO BE IN A POSITION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS." WE DOUBTED THIS BECAUSE AS REPORTED REF D DAMYANOV HAD SAID TWO TO THREE MONTHS (FROM THAT DATE) WOULD BE REQUIRED "BEFORE PROGRAM DOCUMENT WOULD BE IN SHAPE FOR SIGNING," AND IN FACT AT THAT MEETING HAD UNDERTAKEN TO SECURE BULGARIAN PROGRAM PROPOSALS FROM THE RESPECTIVE AGENCIES. IMPLICATION OBVIOUSLY WAS THAT WHEN EACH SIDE IS READY WITH ITS PROPOSALS IT WILL BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE. (THIS WAS ALSO SUPPORTED BY HIS EXPECTATION THAT PAPAZOV

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02346 021459Z

MIGHT BE READY TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER.)

3. ACCORDINGLY, AMBASSADOR MET WITH DAMYANOV NOV 2 TO INQUIRE WHETHER BULGARIANS MIGHT BE READY TO RECEIVE US NEGOTIATING TEAM WEEK OF NOV 22. (DEPT WILL NOTE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH DAMYANOV'S REPORTED EXPOSTULATION PARA 2 REF C THAT "EARLY NOVEMBER" WOULD BE TOO SOON.) DAMYANOV CONFIRMED THAT THERE MUST BE A MIS-UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, AND THAT HE HAD CIRCULARIZED THE RESPECTIVE AGENCIES HERE CALLING FOR THEIR PROPOSALS FOLLOWINGS OUR AUGUST MEETING. IN PRINCIPLE, THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT BULGARIANS WOULD BE READY TO RECEIVE OUR TEAM ON OR ABOUT NOV 22. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF OTHER COMMITMENTS HE REQUESTED A LITTLE TIME TO GIVE US DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. HE ALSO RECALLED THAT WE HAD TOLD BULGARIANS THAT WE WOULD FIND "PIECEMEAL" APPROACH ACCEPTABLE AND REMARKED THAT IT MIGHT JUST POSSIBLY BE THAT NOT EVERY FACET OF THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED AT ONE TIME.

4. DAMYANOV AGAIN ARGUED IN FAVOR OF SIGNING CULTURAL/ SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT PRIOR TO WORKING-OUT OF PROGRAM DOCUMENT. IT WAS CLEAR THAT WHILE THIS CONTINUES TO BE BULGARIAN PREFERENCE THEY AREN'T REALLY ABLE TO ARGUE THAT SUBSTANTIAL DELAY WOULD BE ENTAILED IF BOTH DOCUMENTS ARE SIGNED AT THE SAME TIME. IN FACT, THE ARGUMENT ABOUT DELAY MAY HAVE BEEN MADE PRECISELY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO "CASH" THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND NOT TO HAVE IT REMAIN UNSIGNED DURING THE PROGRAM AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

5. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A LOSS OF TIME AND MONEY TO HAVE THE TEAM RETURN TO WASHINGTON AFTER VISITING ONLY BUDAPEST, IF THE BULGARIANS ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE IT FOR USEFUL TALKS ON THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT TEAM TENTATIVELY PLAN TO COME TO SOFIA AFTER THE BUDAPEST TALKS. (WE WILL HAVE A SLIGHT PROBLEM AT THIS END BECAUSE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS BOORSTIN WILL BE HERE NOV 20 TO 23, BUT BELIEVE THIS PRESENTS NO INSUPERABLE OBSTACLE. POSSIBLY TEAM COULD THINK IN TERMS OF ARRIVAL BY MA 830 MORNING NOV 23.)

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PAGE 03 SOFIA 02346 021459Z

6. WILL REPORT AS SOON AS WE HAVE MORE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE FROM DAMYANOV. HOWEVER, BELIEVE WASHINGTON SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT BULGARIAN ARE ALMOST READY FOR PROGRAM TALKS NOW, AND THAT DAMYANOV EITHER DID NOT SAY IN WASHINGTON, OR DOES NOT NOW WISH TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS HAVING SAID OR IMPLIED, THAT NEGOTIATION OF PROGRAM DOCUMENT NEEDS TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION IN LAST SENTENCE REF C, WE
NOW FEEL EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN BEFORE THAT BULGARIAN
EAGERNESS TO SIGN THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE USED
FOR LEVERAGE IN THE NEGOTIATION OF PROGRAM DOCUMENT.
WITH REFERENCE TO QUESTIONS IN PARA TWO REF C, WE
ALSO STILL BELIEVE AS FIRST INDICATED REF E AND F OF
AUGUST, THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO GIVE DAMYANOV
OUR PROGRAM PROPOSALS WELL AHEAD OF THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT
NEGOTIATIONS, AND THEREFORE REITERATE REQUEST THAT THESE
BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HERZ

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